

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2026–2027 | Issue 1: *Mystic Pizza*

ABOUT THE SHOW

Mystic Pizza: A New Musical delivers the beloved story from the iconic hit film, driven by a score packed with unforgettable hits from the '80s and '90s. Follow best friends Kat, Daisy, and Jojo as they navigate the complexities of friendship and romance — all while slinging slices at a small-town pizza joint.

2:15
RUNTIME
(includes intermission)

10+
RECOMMENDED AGE
(includes some language and adult themes)

SPOTLIGHT ON...THE MUSIC!

With songs drawn from some of the most popular bands and musical artists of the late 80s and early 90s, audience members are likely very familiar with most, if not all, of the featured numbers. These catchy, energetic songs place us instantly in time and place, taking us back to where we were when we first heard them, whether

it's Cyndi Lauper's "**True Colors**," The Bangles' "**Manic Monday**," or Pat Benetar's "**Hit Me With Your Best Shot**."

Other songs in *Mystic Pizza* (together with the artist that popularized them in the 80s and 90s) that will get you humming include:

TAKE MY BREATH AWAY

Berlin

HOLD ON

Wilson Phillips

THE POWER OF LOVE

Huey Lewis and the News

MAD ABOUT YOU

Belinda Carlisle

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

Cyndi Lauper

NOTHING'S GONNA STOP US NOW

Starship

I THINK WE'RE ALONE NOW

Tiffany

NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP

Rick Astley



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FROM SCREEN TO STAGE

When the film *Mystic Pizza* opened in 1988, it helped launch the careers of newcomers Julia Roberts, Lili Taylor, and Annabeth Gish. It also raised the profile of a small restaurant in Mystic, Connecticut, the film's namesake pizza parlor!

Screenwriter Amy Holden Jones, who had spent time in the area, chose to make "Mystic Pizza" the central location for her original story about three waitresses and their adventures and misadventures in love. After the film's release and subsequent popularity (which grew even more after Roberts' second feature film, *Pretty Woman*), the real "Mystic Pizza" restaurant was renovated to look more like the film set.

Fast forward three decades to 2019, and work began on a stage musical adaptation of the film, with an all-female

development team. Sandy Rustin (*Clue On Stage*, *The Cottage*) wrote the book, and Carmel Dean (Musical Supervisor for *The Notebook*, Additional Arrangements for *Funny Girl*) composed the orchestrations and arrangements *Mystic Pizza: A New Musical* premiered at the Ogunquit Playhouse (Maine) in 2021.

The production went on to workshop and perform at several theaters, including the Adirondack

Theatre Festival, NY (2022), La Mirada Theater, CA (2024), and Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ (2025).

The US National Tour launches this month, and the Palace Theater is proud to be the first Connecticut (and New England) venue for this charming and heartfelt musical!



Cast of *Mystic Pizza: A New Musical* (l-r): Chloé Lezotte, Kendall Becerra, and Lexxi B. Friles.
Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade



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